Housing shortage in the Country

524. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of housing in the country;

(b) if so, the effective measures taken by Government to resolve the housing problem;

(c) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As per the projections of the National Building Organisation/Working Group on Urban Housing for the 9th Plan based on 1991 census data, the housing shortage in the country is estimated as 6.64 million and 12.76 million for the year 2001 in Urban and Rural areas respectively.

(b) to (d) Housing is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to provide housing to people particularly those belonging to the EWS/LIG categories, the Central Government has been providing policy guidelines and taking various initiatives to promote housing activity in both urban and rural areas. The National Housing and Habitat Policy-1998 has prescribed the role of the Central Government as that of a facilitator and enabler. Accordingly, the Central Government has taken various initiatives to accelerate the pace of housing in the urban areas. These include:—

I. Fiscal incentives in the form of Income Tax and other concessions and access to funds through equity support to HUDCO.

II. By advocating a legal regime conducive to vigorous housing and construction activity.

III. By transfer of appropriate and cost-effective technology to beneficiaries.

IV. By encouraging greater public-private partnership in housing.

V. Encouraging housing in the cooperative sector.